

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KADUNA 01037 080941Z
ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KADUNA 1037

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, NI
SUBJECT: THE NORTHERN POLITICAL STAGE

REF: KADUNA 0908

1. ALHAJI ISA KAITA REVIEWED THE CURRENT NORTHERN POLITICAL SCENE IN AN AUGUST 7 DISCUSSION. HE SAID THAT ALL TEN NORTHERN STATES ARE NOW ORGANIZED INTO ONE POLITICAL GROUPING WITH WAZIRI IBRAHIM AS THE ONLY MAJOR NORTHERN POLITICAL FIGURE NOT IN "OUR" GROUP. NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING WITH IBRAHIM'S GROUP; HOWEVER, HE IS STILL UNWILLING TO GIVE UP HIS PERSONAL PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS FOR THE SAKE OF NORTHERN UNITY. KAITA DOES NOT VIEW THIS AS THE DEFECTION OF BORNO SINCE OTHER KEY KANURI LEADERS SUCH AS KEM SELEM AND ALI MONUGO ARE IN THE NORTHERN CAMP.
2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER JOE TARKA WHO IS IN THE NORTHERN CAMP REALLY REPRESENTS THE MIDDLE BELT, KAITA SAID THAT TARKA REPRESENTED SOME MIDDLE BELTERS, THE YOUNG CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MEMBERS OTHER MIDDLE BELTERS AND THAT THERE WAS YET A THIRD GROUP THERE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT CLUB 19 WAS "SPLINTERED"

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PAGE 02 KADUNA 01037 080941Z

AT THIS POINT, SOME IN IBRAHIM'S CAMP AND SOME IN "OUR" CAMP. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID CLUB 19 MEMBERS HAVE FUNCTIONED AS INTERMEDIARIES BETWEEN IBRAHIM AND "US".

3. KAITA SAID THAT THE NORTHERN GROUP HAD BEGUN TO NEGOTIATE WITH VARIOUS SOUTHERN GROUPS SINCE "WE NEED SUPPORT IN 13 STATES" AND HAD SUPPORTERS

IN IMO, ANAMBRA AND "OTHER EASTERN STATES". HE ADMITTED THAT IBRAHIM ALSO HAD SUPPORT IN THE EAST AND SAID THAT WAS ONE OF THE REASONS THE HHRATHERN GROUP WAS STILL SEEKING HIS SUPPORT.

4. DISCUSSING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, KAITA SAID THE NORTHERN MAN REMAINED TO BE CHOSEN. HE SAID, "AS A MAN WHO HAS RUN A POLITICAL PARTY BEFORE, I BELIEVE IT IS BEST TO WAIT UNTIL WE CAN CAUCUS AS AN ORGANIZATION AND SELECT THE BEST MAN FOR EACH JOB."

5. COMMENT: KAITA'S DISCUSSION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION REFLECTED A SENSE OF SATISFACTION WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION AS FAR AS THE NORTH IS CONCERNED. HE WAS ALSO MORE FORTHCOMING THAT IN EARLIER DISCUSSIONS AND CLEARLY FELT THAT THE NORTHERN GROUP COULD PULL A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS IN THE SOUTH AND THE EAST.
LAKE

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